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Denendeh Planning

November 1990

Volume 1 Number 4

Commission Re-focuses Effort



Flare at Norman Wells

Photo: I.P.L.

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Chairperson's Message:

As the land cools and the days shorten noticeably from the warm summer period, we're all beginning to settle into our fall and winter routines.

The Commission's biggest news involves the re-focusing of its activities to a new approach, one which will allow us to prepare a number of quality plans of enduring value. The decision to proceed in this way is rooted in the belief that we must produce well-researched and balanced recommendations which will respond well to both the needs of residents and the forces of development. The new approach will, however, extend the term of our work well beyond the original projected date of 1992.

In an overlapping fashion, the Commission will be working first with the Sahtu region, secondarily with Deh Cho, South and North Slave until all regions of Denendeh have been covered. Great care will be taken to ensure that early planning work already started with communities is not lost. The specific details of how the Commission and staff will accomplish the tasks are being worked out as this newsletter goes to press.

As usual, we look forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions.

Dave McCann

Chairperson - Denendeh Planning Commission

Commission Re-focuses

The Commission has recently re-ordered its activities and budget to produce a better plan for all of Denendeh.

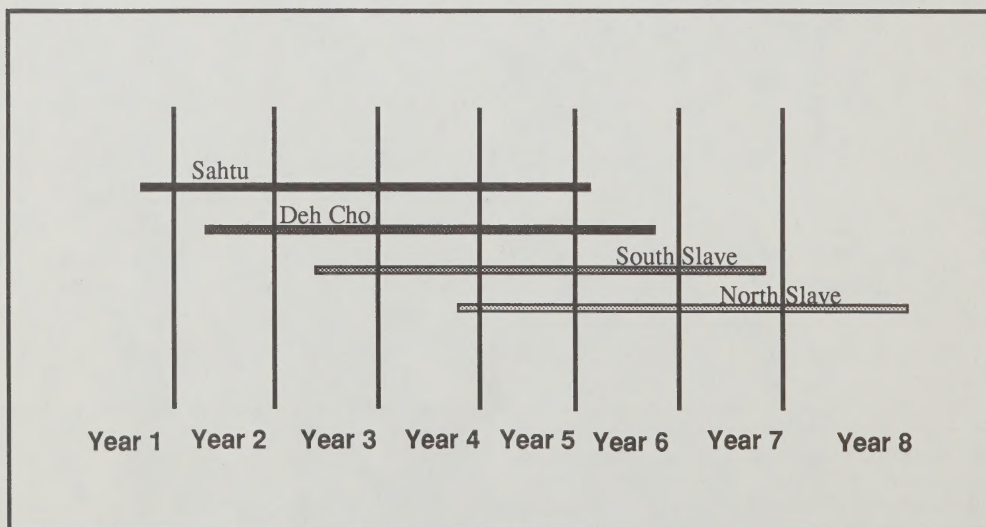
Under the previous scheme, a 1992 deadline was expected. While it was agreed that a "basic" plan could be created within the original timeline budget, it was increasingly felt that the plan quality might not meet minimal expectations of all parties. While maintaining a tight schedule and budget for the first year of activity, there was a growing feeling amongst Commission, Staff and communities that the risks in producing a "rushed" plan were simply not worth running. A plan produced in a hurry would possibly not be able to deliver the kind of considered, balanced land use plan that all partners seek.

Therefore, with the express formal approval by resolution of both the Dene chiefs and the Metis Association leadership, it was decided to move to a sequential method of doing the plan. An overlapping approach was confirmed by the Commission in its late September meeting, as shown in the diagram below.

".....planning in the Sahtu.....will be top priority....."

In real terms, what this means is that planning in the Sahtu sub-region of Denendeh will be top priority for the Commission. The Commission will also proceed just as fast as time and resources permit into the other sub-regions. In rescheduling discussions at the Commission, it was suggested that the Deh Cho sub-region may be the second priority with South and North Slave sub-regions being later priorities.

Plans for all sub-regions of Denendeh should be available by 1996/97. Exact timing will be determined after fuller discussion and agreement with the planning partners. An umbrella Denendeh document tying the four sub-regional plans together may also follow.



Relative timing of Sequential Planning In the Regions of Denendeh

What's it all about?

We're often asked what the Denendeh plan is expected to do, and what force it will have when completed.

From the perspective of the Commission, the plan document which we will pass to the Ministers of government will show the best possible land uses for Denendeh land, representing a balance of traditional and industrial uses. The plan should allow for the most important of traditional land uses to continue while also permitting new economic activities to take place. The plan will recognize potential land use conflict where it exists, and attempt to lay out options for compensation where conflict is inevitable. The particular mix of recommendations prepared by the Commission will be based on extensive consultation with all parties and residents.

In terms of its final force, the plan will be a guideline document to be used by land management agencies in the course of their work. The Dene/Metis Final Agreement when completed will create joint management boards which will be responsible for implementing plans. But until that time, existing government agencies will have most responsibility. Because of wide involvement with land users during the plan creation, it is expected that the document will have a powerful influence on all future developments. Future proposed land use schemes which do not conform with the plan may not be permitted or may stimulate further review of the plan itself.

Overall, the existence of a planning process should mean that the residents of Denendeh will have an increased amount of control over developments in their region.

Editor's note: *The above question is raised so often, it was thought useful to repeat this explanation from the third edition.*

***".....the Plan.....
.....a balance of
traditional and
industrial uses"***

***".....the document
will have a powerful
influence on future
developments"***



Jean Marie River Community Working Group

Portfolios

Each member of the Commission has accepted special responsibilities in addition to their general responsibilities as a Commissioner. While they might change at any time, portfolios for the moment are as follows:

Economic Development & Tourism: Nielsen, Villeneuve, Migwi

Government & Industry Contact: Nielsen, Barber

Communications & Public Relations: McCann, Nielsen

Overlap: Barber

Renewable Resources: Villeneuve, Unka

Finance: Villeneuve, McCann, Unka, Haist, Nielsen

Planning & Land Claims: Migwi

Traditional Land Use/Economy: Migwi

Transportation & Military: Haist

Agriculture: Haist

Non-Renewable Resources: Nielsen, Barber

Mapping: Migwi, Barber, Haist

These portfolios will be listed in every newsletter in the future. If you have a particular matter that you wish to discuss, feel free to contact directly Commissioner(s) responsible at 920-6003.

Spotlight on Deh Cho

Overview 1988-89 - A series of Land Use Planning workshops/meetings were held in Deh Cho communities. Land Use issues were identified. A selection of Denendeh Land Use Planning Commission members toured the Deh Cho region with regional staff.

Overview 1990 - A regional Land Use Planning workshop was held in Fort Simpson early in the new year. Topics covered at the meeting included: An in-depth review of Land Use Planning, the planning process defined, Community Working Groups (CWG's). A special presentation on the Mackenzie-Delta Land Use Planning experience was also made. All Deh Cho community representatives were present. Follow-up community meetings were conducted to discuss the formation of Community Working Groups. To this point in time, Wrigley, Jean Marie River, Kakisa and Fort Providence have formed CWG's. The remaining communities will be visited in the near future for establishing working CWG's.

Community Activities:

Contacts have been made concerning land use meetings for all Deh Cho communities. The formation of CWG's, fieldworkers, workplans, budgets, and mapping requirements have been and are still the most important topics on meeting agendas.

For the communities where CWG's have been formed, there is a different agenda. Communities with CWG's normally spend some time seeking mapping fieldworkers and preparing for the community mapping series (See item later in this newsletter).

Map #1 sheets, entitled "Extent of community use", have been sent to most of the Deh Cho communities for completion.

Major Meetings

A number of major meetings impacting on activities in the Deh Cho have happened since the beginning of the new year. A quick summary of meetings is as follows:

January - Planning Commission meeting in Yellowknife

February - Facilitators meeting in Norman Wells; Deh Cho regional land use planning workshop in Fort Simpson.

May - Land Use Planning staff meeting in Yellowknife; Planning Commission-sponsored Government/Industry Meeting in Yellowknife

June - Report to the Deh Cho Regional Tribal Council in Fort Simpson

July - Land Use Planning staff meeting in Yellowknife; Commission meeting in Fort Simpson

August - Report to the Deh Cho Regional Tribal Executive Council.

Upcoming Activities

- Establish Community Working Groups (CWG) and Fieldworkers in Deh Cho communities.

- Hold Land use planning workshop/meetings.

- Identify and develop land use issues with assistance from established CWG's.

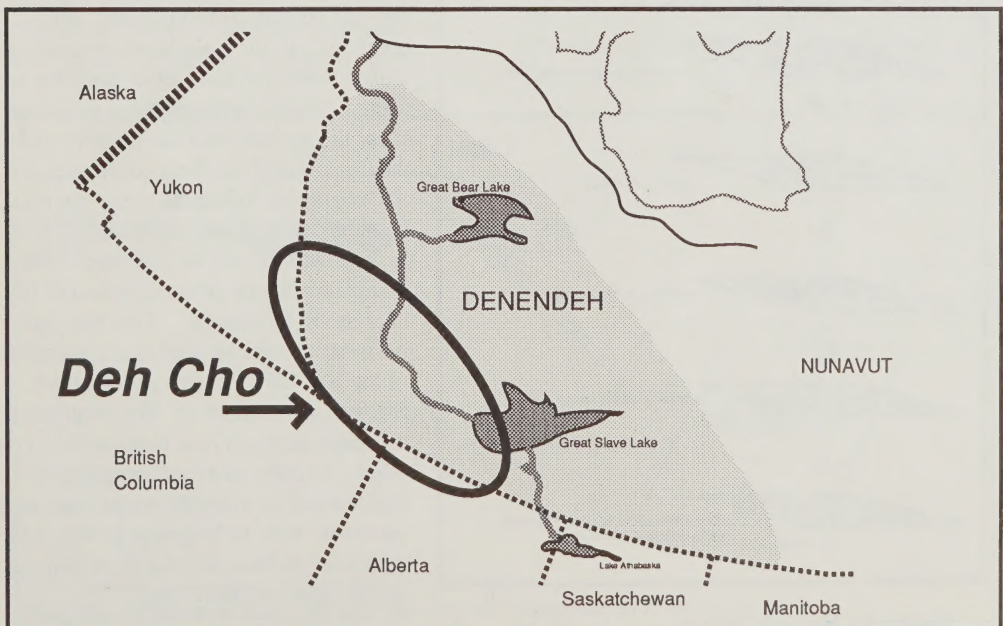
- Analyze land use issues and develop options on preferred alternatives.

- Gather community land use information for the development of land use maps.

- Regional issues workshop to discuss common regional land use issues and analyze, identify and develop options of preferred alternatives to land use issues.

- Conduct a Regional options workshop to discuss the communities and regional options to be included in options paper and draft land use plan.

Mike Nadli, the Land use planning facilitator urges all communities to get involved so that Land Use planning will properly reflect their need and aspirations.



General location of Deh Cho region in Denendeh

Community Mapping Project

To help the Commission and participants visualize current and possible future land use, it is necessary that an accurate and complete record of existing land use be available.

Land use maps are being prepared by each community. These maps show what areas of land are used, and what happens on them. Information will be recorded on a series of 12 map overlays by volunteers, fieldworkers or local contractors. Local land users will be interviewed and the gathered information plotted on the maps. Each community will have the following maps created:

Map 1 - The area of all community land used

Maps 2 to 5 - Hunting, fishing, and trapping activity for each season

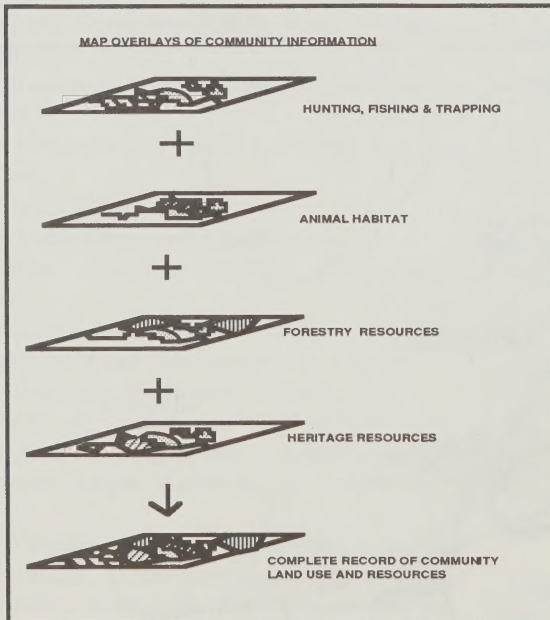
Maps 6 to 9 - Animal, bird and fish habitats for each season

Map 10 - Forestry and plant resources

Map 11 - Cultural and heritage resources

Map 12 - Miscellaneous community land use

***".....Information
will be recorded on
a series of 12 map
overlays....."***



Community Mapping Overlays

Information will be collected on maps at a scale of 1:250,000 for data entry into the computer. After the community information has been digitized (entered into the computer) at this scale it can be combined with information from other potential land users. When overlaid these maps can show the various land use patterns and where potential conflicts could appear. A Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) computer at the Land use Planning Office in Yellowknife will be used to provide a complete and comprehensive record of land use in Denendeh. This mapped information will be used in the preparation of the land use plan and various land management exercises. The diagram on this page suggests how maps will be compiled. In order to avoid complicated legends and to make the maps more understandable with all language groups a set of symbols has been developed to indicate certain land use activities.

Land Use Mapping Explained

Quality mapping is key to good planning. By comparing community-generated maps of land use with other "proposed land use" maps (Enterprise mapping in the diagram below) from new land users, it should be easy to see where conflicts in land use will be. Once all planning partners have co-operatively identified their land interests and detailed potential conflict areas, the Commission hopes to design conditions and/or compensations (based on the documented loss of a community resource) for use. The result should permit the creation of multiple land use zones (where two land uses can happily co-exist).

Where there is no conflict (and assuming that there is no other potential land use identified), the recommended use of land in the plan will probably be identical to its current use. Lands identified by communities as having a very high value (say for religious or historical reasons) outside of selected AIP lands may be declared unavailable to development. However it is expected that these lands will cover only a minor portion of the total area under planning.

Staff Changes

Chuck Williams has been appointed manager for the Commission. Originally from Wrigley, Chuck has a long experience with development issues in the Mackenzie region.

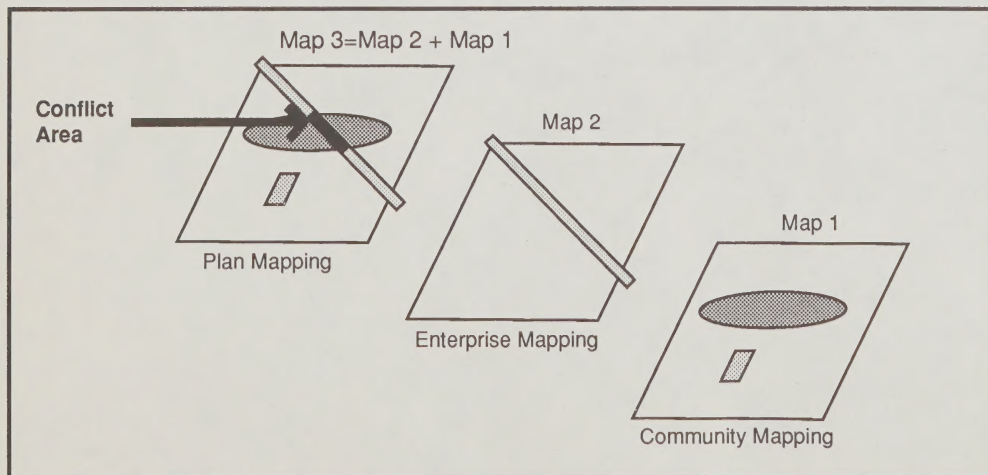
Leslie Green has returned to the Planning Program of the U. of British Columbia for a final academic year following a busy summer with the Commission as acting manager.

Shannon Cumming has resumed coursework in Geography at the U. of Calgary after providing summer technical support services courtesy of the Northern Careers Program.

Alphonse Nitsiza has been appointed as the new Facilitator for the North Slave region, replacing Violet Camsell. Alphonse is originally from Lac La Martre, and speaks Dogrib and English.

New Commissioner

Paul Baton of Fort Franklin will be joining the Commission in the very near future. His extensive experience in community affairs will be a welcome asset in the Commission's deliberations. The next issue of this newsletter will carry a full biography.



Simplified diagram of how mapping contributes to conflict identification

Feed back!!

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE LAND AND RESOURCE USE IN THE WEST- ERN NWT?

How do you think that orderly development should best proceed with minimal environmental disruption and maximum benefits to residents?

If you are concerned about these or other related issues then the Denendeh Commission would like to hear from you. If you feel there are certain issues which need to be addressed through land use planning or if you just want to be kept informed about the Commission's activities please fill in the following form and send it to the Commission at the address below.

The Denendeh Planning Commission should address the following issues during the preparation of the Plan:

Please add my name to the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Community: _____

Postal Code: _____

I would like to receive a Poster ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cut out this coupon and send to:

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Box 2280
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7



Denendeh Planning newsletter is published by the Denendeh Planning Commission in their Yellowknife offices. Information is prepared by staff assigned by the three contributing partner-organizations: Dene/Metis Secretariat, GNWT Renewable Resources, and the DIAND Northern Land Use Planning Office. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of any of the partner organizations. Information is provided to inform the residents of progress on the Denendeh Plan. Planning office staff and Commissioners welcome your comments on issues important to you.

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